

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

P.O. Box 944210, Sacramento, CA 94244-2100

P (916) 322-3350 | www.rn.ca.gov

Ruth Ann Terry, MPH, RN, Executive Officer



NEW LAW PROTECTS TITLE “NURSE” AND REQUIRES NAME TAGS

The title “nurse” is now protected by law effective January 1, 1999, as the result of legislation introduced by Assemblyman Brett Granlund.

“In the interest of public safety and consumer awareness,” AB 1439 (chaptered 98-1013) prohibits the use of the title “nurse” by any individual except RNs or licensed vocational nurses. The new law does not prohibit certified nurses’ aides from using their specific title.

This new law also requires health care practitioners to wear a name tag while working that discloses their name and practitioner license status in at least 18-point type. In psychiatric settings or in settings not licensed by the state, employers have the discretion to not require name tags if there are individual safety or therapeutic concerns. Also, if the practitioner’s license is prominently displayed in a practice or an office, name tags are not required.

The Board supported this legislation as a means to prevent confusion for consumers.